



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

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Robert J. Dole VA Medical Center — News Release

LEGIONELLA FINDINGS, TREATMENT, PROTECTIVE MEASURES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WICHITA, KS. – In March of this year, a Veteran at the Robert J. Dole VA Medical Center was diagnosed with pneumonia and began treatment. Laboratory testing demonstrated that the patient had been exposed to Legionella. This is considered a possible case of Legionella Pneumonia. The patient responded well to treatment and has been discharged from the hospital.

To ensure the safety of our Veterans, volunteers, and employees we immediately conducted water testing and began mitigation actions in areas occupied by this patient. On Monday, March 30, 2015, preliminary water testing results indicated a presence of Legionella. We have implemented heat treatment and are installing water filters as appropriate. Additional system-wide mitigation will include the use of chemical treatment.

The facility follows a stringent program to ensure that water supplies are safe for Veterans, volunteers, and staff. Water is tested quarterly and additionally as circumstances indicate. We continue to place Veteran and employee safety as our highest priority.

For more information, please contact Jeremy Tevis, Acting Public Affairs Officer, at (316) 634-3064.

About the Robert J. Dole VA Medical Center

The Robert J. Dole VA Medical Center is a Joint Commission accredited, level 1C facility located in Wichita, Kansas that provides a full range of patient care services including medicine, surgery, outpatient psychiatry, physical medicine and rehabilitation, cardiology, neurology, oncology, dentistry, visual impairment and low vision rehabilitation, spinal cord dysfunction, traumatic brain injury management, poly-trauma clinic, pain management, post-traumatic stress disorder treatment, homeless services, mental health intensive case management, prosthetics/orthotics, and extended care services. The Thomson Reuters Value Model rated the Robert J. Dole VA Medical Center 5 stars in quality for the second year in a row in 2014!

The Dole VA Medical Center, The University of Kansas School of Medicine and Wichita State University maintain long-standing affiliation partnership agreements for academic purposes of enhanced patient care, education and research. The medical center is part of VHA VISN 15 Heartland Network, which includes the Eastern Kansas Health Care System (Topeka & Leavenworth), Kansas City, Columbia, St. Louis, Marion, and Poplar Bluff VA Medical Centers. The geographic region includes Kansas, Missouri, southern Illinois, and southern Indiana.

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